



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

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February 1, 2018

Administrative Boards of the College of Arts and Sciences
Office of General Education
UNC-CH

University of Limerick – Exchange Program

Dear Colleagues:

The Study Abroad Office and the Department of Economics is submitting for your approval a proposal to establish a new student exchange program with the University of Limerick (UL) to begin in Spring 2019.

Rationale and Support

Currently, UNC-CH's study abroad portfolio in Ireland includes student exchange partnerships with University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, and National University of Ireland Galway; a non-exchange partnership with University College Cork; and a few approved third-party provider programs.

Student demand for exchange programs in Ireland is relatively high and the current offering is not meeting demand. In the last two years, an average of seven students per semester studied in Ireland as exchange students. More students applied for exchange programs in Ireland each semester but were not accommodated due to lack of exchange places. Students who were not awarded an exchange place in Ireland either studied in Ireland as a non-exchange student paying the tuition charged by the Irish university to international students, studied elsewhere in the world as an exchange student, or decided not to study abroad. It is important to add a new program in Ireland to accommodate student demand for exchange places there.

Exchange programs in Ireland attract students from a variety of fields of study because of the universities' comprehensive course catalogs and the absence of a language barrier. The UL exchange program will be available to all students in the College of Arts and Sciences, and it should attract students seeking both major credit and general education requirements. Because UL's academic calendar closely aligns with the US academic calendar, unlike most of the exchange programs in the UK and Ireland, the spring semester at UL will be an attractive option for students seeking summer internships in the US.

The Department of Economics supports this program proposal. Economics majors study abroad in high numbers, and additional semester exchange programs in the UK and Ireland supported by the

department would benefit these students. Rita Balaban, Director of Undergraduate Studies in Economics, reviewed the Economics courses at UL. She confirmed many of the courses could transfer to UNC to satisfy Economics major requirements.

The Directors of Undergraduate Studies in English, History, and Psychology will also be asked to review the course catalog at UL to determine if sufficient courses would transfer to satisfy major requirements.

Emily Marlton, Northern Europe Programs Director in the Study Abroad Office, will conduct a site visit to UL in April 2018.

The University

UL, founded in 1972 and granted university status in 1989, was the first university established after Ireland's independence in 1922. Enrollment is approximately 13,000 students.

UL's relevant faculties and departments include:

- Faculty of Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences (History, Politics, Communication, Sociology)
- Faculty of Education & Health Sciences (Sport Sciences, Education, Psychology)
- Faculty of Science & Engineering (Computer Science, Mathematics and Statistics, Natural Sciences)
- Kemmy Business School (Economics)

UL is located in Limerick in the Mid-West region of Ireland, just a 15 minute drive from the Shannon airport. Limerick's population is just over 90,000.

UL has one of the largest co-op programs in the EU and the only service-learning program in Ireland, a program that connects academics with community projects.

The Program

The program will be a two-way exchange, with semester and academic year options. UNC-CH students will also have the option to study at UL as a non-exchange student, paying UL tuition instead of UNC-CH tuition. The non-exchange option will be attractive to out-of-state students.

UNC-CH will nominate students from the College of Arts and Sciences to take courses across UL's relevant faculties.

UL will nominate students to study in UNC-CH's College of Arts and Sciences. UL faculty and staff are aware that their students will be limited to two Economics courses per semester at UNC.

The minimum GPA requirement for admission to the UL exchange programs is 2.75, and students must have completed at least one year of university study at the time of application. Students must enroll in a minimum of the equivalent of 12 US credit hours and will receive transfer credit for courses taken abroad. The equivalent of a "C" or above is required for credits to transfer.

Exchange students at UL have access to student support services, facilities, and student life just as the degree-seeking students do. Exchange students receive additional support from the International Office, academic coordinators, and the optional international buddy program. The International Office offers

airport pick-up and organizes a mandatory comprehensive week-long orientation program at the beginning of each term.

UL provides housing to exchange students in five of their on-campus student villages. Housing allocations are made on a first-come first-serve basis, so students will be advised to apply for housing early. Private off-campus housing within walking and biking distance to campus is also available.

Health and Safety

The UNC-CH Study Abroad Office enrolls students in international accident and health insurance through GeoBlue (<https://www.geobluestudents.com/>) for the duration of the program. There are no immediate health concerns in Limerick. Modern medical facilities and highly skilled medical practitioners are available in Ireland.

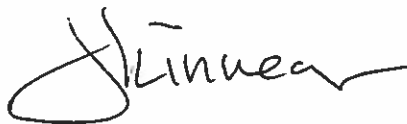
According to the U.S. State Department website, all European countries, including Ireland, remain potentially vulnerable to attacks from transnational terrorist organizations. The national governments are taking action to guard against terrorist attacks, but U.S. citizens should be aware that attacks could take place without warning. The U.S. State Department website also reminds tourists that there is some risk of theft of personal property and pickpockets.

We are happy to provide any further information that you may need to evaluate this proposal.

Yours sincerely:



Donna Gilleskie
Chair, Department of Economics



Jason Kinnear
Interim Associate Dean of Study Abroad